Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 29 Dec 2023 at 11:38

Confidence: High confidence for unsettled, wintery weather with some snow accumulations expected on the fells over the New Year period. Very windy at times with significant windchill effect and poor visibility likely in wintery showers. Uncertainty in exact snow level and amount of showers later in the period.

Headline for Saturday 30 Dec 2023: A wet day with heavy rain for much of the day and southeasterly summit gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow showers (night)	Dull	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Sleet showers	Sleet showers
Precipitation probability							
40%	40%	20%	30%	60%	60%	40%	40%

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Weather: A few wintery showers in the early hours of Saturday but mostly dry by dawn. Soon after dawn an area of rain spreads east over the Lake District and is expected to take most of the day to clear east, the rain may fall as sleet on the higher fells at first but will turn to rain for all. Rain will be heavy and persistent at times but may become more showery in the afternoon. Any lying snow is likely to melt with very wet conditions underfoot. Accompanied by strong southeasterly winds which will enhance the windchill effect. Rain turning to showers which may become wintery on the summits later in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 80% falling to 40%, due to rain spreading across the area.

Low cloud and visibility: Few or scattered layers of cloudy above 600m early in the day. Cloud will thicken and lower during the morning with broken layers above 400m, particularly in the west, perhaps higher and more scattered towards northern fells with some shelter. Visibility will be good initially in the morning but deteriorating as rain spreads in, becoming poor at times in heavier bursts of rain, improving slightly later in the day as the rain clears east.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	23/29 W	16/19 SW	16/19 S	32/41 SE	41/53 SE	37/50 S	30/39 S	29/37 S	27/35 S
600	19/26 W	12/16 SW	12/17 S	28/39 SE	31/45 SE	32/46 S	25/35 S	25/34 S	23/31 S
300	8/21 W	4/13 W	2/10 S	11/29 SE	14/38 SE	15/37 S	11/28 S	11/27 S	10/24 S
Valley	7/19 W	4/12 W	3/9 SE	12/28 SE	14/34 SE	16/34 S	12/26 S	12/25 S	12/25 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-10	-2/-8	-2/-7	-2/-10	0/-8	2/-5	1/-6	0/-7	-0/-7
600	0/-6	-0/-5	0/-4	-0/-8	1/-6	4/-2	3/-3	2/-4	2/-4
300	2/-1	2/-0	2/0	2/-3	4/-1	6/2	5/1	4/0	4/0
Valley	5/2	4/3	4/3	4/0	6/2	8/5	7/4	7/4	6/3
Freezing Level*	600m	700m	700m	600m	1400m	1300m	1100m	1000m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill expected, bitterly cold at height in gales combined with rain. Freezing level rises during the day with all precipitation turning to rain and lying snow beginning to melt. Severe wintery conditions at height on Saturday. Showers turning wintery on the summits during the evening.

Forecast for Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Weather: A showery day with fresh or strong winds, showers will be wintery and squally above 700m during the day, risk of some thunder in showers too. Possible whiteout conditions at times.

Maximum wind: Southeasterly 20-25mph gusts 30-35mph, turning Northwesterly later in the day 15-20mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60%, low cloud building around wintery showers.

Low cloud and visibility: Layers of scattered or broken cloud above 500m, becoming more prevalent as showers group together, out with showers some brighter conditions and possible views. Mainly moderate visibility turning poor in heavier showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 rising to 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Zero Celsius.
Freezing level: 800m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 29 December 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20. Full report: A wet morning with yet more strong winds and precipitation falling as sleet, snow, and hail above 700m, and a thin layer of fresh snow has settled above 800m, however, this is rapidly being redistributed on strong SW winds.

Much of the Lakeland fells remain clear of snow, although the majority of today's new snow is accumulating on high and steep north and east-facing slopes where drifts of up to 10cm are present.

Swirral and Striding edges are a mixture of snow (in their upper reaches) and exposed rock (some of which has a thin veneer of verglas or black ice). Microspikes and an ice axe were very useful in today's conditions. The summit temperature was just below freezing point today and around -12ºC with windchill (feels like temperature). Any overnight snow and continued sub-zero temperatures may lead to more snow and ice tomorrow than is described here. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), and equipment including a headtorch, map, and compass are all essential. For anyone attempting steep and exposed routes, such as the Helvellyn edges, microspikes/crampons, and am ice will be a sensible addition to your rucksack. Goggles are strongly recommended for navigating and route finding in challenging conditions. Temperature: minus 0.7 C, Maximum wind speed 55.1 mph, Wind chill: minus 12.3 C, Average wind speed: 48.6 mph

Issued at: 1138 on Fri 29 Dec 2023

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